

(11) (A) No. 1 150 903

(45) ISSUED 830802

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(52) CLASS 2-95
C.R. CL. 2-130;
223-23; 296-76

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(51) INT. CL. A41B 11/10

(19) (CA) **CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) PANT LEG PROTECTOR

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(73) Granted to Dustbane Products Limited/Les Produits
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(21) APPLICATION No. 417,120

(22) FILED 821207

No. OF CLAIMS 6

Canada

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device to elevate the leg bottoms of a car driver's trousers and thereby protect the lower ends of the trousers from becoming wet or soiled from accumulated moisture or dirt beneath his feet in the car. The device comprises a collar to be attached to the steering column of the car. A pair of elongated straps of predetermined length are secured to that collar. To the end of each strap is secured a clip, each clip to be releasably fastened to each trouser leg. When the clips are fastened when the driver is seated in the car, one clip at a selected location on a lower portion of each of the car driver's trouser legs, the device lifts the bottoms of the driver's trouser legs so that these bottoms are clear of moisture or dirt.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a trouser leg protector, and more particularly to a device which can be used to protect the lower ends of the trousers of a car driver from becoming wet or soiled while driving a car.

It is well known that dirt and moisture which are often found beneath the feet of the driver of a car collects on the lower ends of trousers, thus making those portions of the trousers wet or soiled. Particularly in colder climates where salt is used to melt snow or ice on highways and sidewalks, salt from snow or moisture on the shoes or boots of the driver collects under his feet and, unless he has rolled up his trouser legs, soils the lower ends of his trousers with an unsightly white line or stain. Whereas dirt may be brushed off and moisture may dry on the lower ends of trousers, trousers stained with salt must be dry-cleaned or washed to remove that stain.

One solution to this problem is of course to turn up the lower ends of the trousers when one is driving a car, so that the ends will be maintained above dirt or moisture on the floor of the car beneath the driver's feet. Of course this action produces creases and destroys the shape of the lower ends of the trouser legs. Another solution has been proposed in U.S. Patent No. 2,391,707 of Garrell issued December 25, 1945, in the form of a boot or shoe having a leg portion designed to receive the lower ends of the trousers in normal, unfolded condition. The boot or shoe is also provided with a means whereby the heel of the wearer is spaced from



the inner rear portion of the boot or shoe, to provide a channel in which the lower edge of the trousers may lie.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a device which will guard or protect the lower ends of a person's trousers when driving a car, from becoming wet or soiled from dirt or moisture collecting on the floor of the car beneath that driver's feet.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a device for elevating the lower ends of a car driver's trousers which comprises a collar to be attached to the steering column a car. A pair of elongated straps of predetermined length are secured to the collar. A clip is secured to the end of each strap, one clip to be releasably fastened to each trouser leg. When the clips are fastened to the trouser legs when the driver is seated in the car, one at a selected location on a lower portion of each of the trouser legs, the device lifts the bottoms of the trouser legs so that these bottoms are clear of any snow, water or dirt which may exist on the car floor beneath the driver's feet. In a preferred form of the invention, the collar is an elastic strap, the ends of which are provided with a releasable fastening means comprising a Velcro (Trade Mark) type fastener.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects and advantages of the invention

will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon referring to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a car driver's trouser leg protector device according to the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of such device illustrating a manner in which it may be used.

While the invention will be described in connection with an example embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to such embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the following description, similar features in the drawings have been given similar reference numerals.

Turning to Figure 1 there is illustrated a device 2 for elevating the lower ends 4 (Figure 2) of a car driver's trousers so that they will be held above any snow, water or dirt which may exist on the car floor beneath his feet. The device comprises a collar 6, which may be made of any appropriate flexible material and, for example, may be an elastic strap, the ends of which are provided with an appropriate releasable fastening means 8 such as, for example, Velcro (Trade Mark) fastener material. The collar and fastening means should preferably be adjustable so that the strap can be secured to any standard size of steering column 10 (Figure 2) so that

the collar is held in one position on that column.

The device is further provided with elongated straps which are secured, at one end, by any appropriate means (riveting, sewing, etc.) to collar 6 at appropriate locations along its outer surface.

5 Straps 12 may be made of any appropriate flexible material, and preferably consist of elastic straps. At the other end of straps 12 are secured clips 14 for releasably fastening to the lower portions of the car driver's trouser legs as illustrated in Figure 2. The straps should be of a length and elasticity such that, when the collar is secured to the securing column at a particular location, and the straps are stretched and the clips then fastened to lower portions of the driver's trouser legs, the driver being seated in the car, the straps will lift the bottoms of the car driver's trouser legs as illustrated in Figure 2. The length of the straps between the clips and collar may be made adjustable by appropriate adjustment means 16. The clips should be of a construction which will not harm the trouser material as they hold the trousers in position as illustrated in Figure 2. As well, it is preferable that the clips be of a construction which will permit the trouser legs to be automatically and non-destructively released from fastened engagement with the clips simply by movement of the driver's legs away from the device when it is attached to the steering column of a car, for example as he moves his legs to get out of the car. Clips such as those described and illustrated in U.S. Patent No. 3,456,262 of Coon issued July 15, 1969 have been found to be suitable in this regard.

Thus it is apparent that there has been provided in accordance with the invention a pant leg protector device that fully

satisfies the objects, aims and advantages set forth above. While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A device for elevating the lower ends of a car driver's trousers, comprising:

- (a) a collar to be attached to the steering column of a car;
- (b) a pair of elongated straps of predetermined length secured to the collar;
- (c) a pair of clips, one secured to the end of each strap, one clip to be releasably fastened to each trouser leg;

whereby, when the clips are fastened when the driver is seated in the car, one at a selected location on a lower portion of each of the car driver's trouser legs, the device lifts the bottoms of the driver's trouser legs so that these bottoms are clear of any snow, water or dirt which may exist on the car floor beneath his feet.

2. A device according to claim 1 wherein the collar is an elastic strap, the ends of which are provided with releasable fastening means.

3. A device according to claim 2 wherein the releasable fastening means comprises a Velcro (trade mark) type fastener.

4. A device according to claim 1 wherein the elongated straps are elastic and are of a normal, unstretched length such that when they are stretched and the clips are fastened, the straps lift the

bottoms of the car driver's trouser legs.

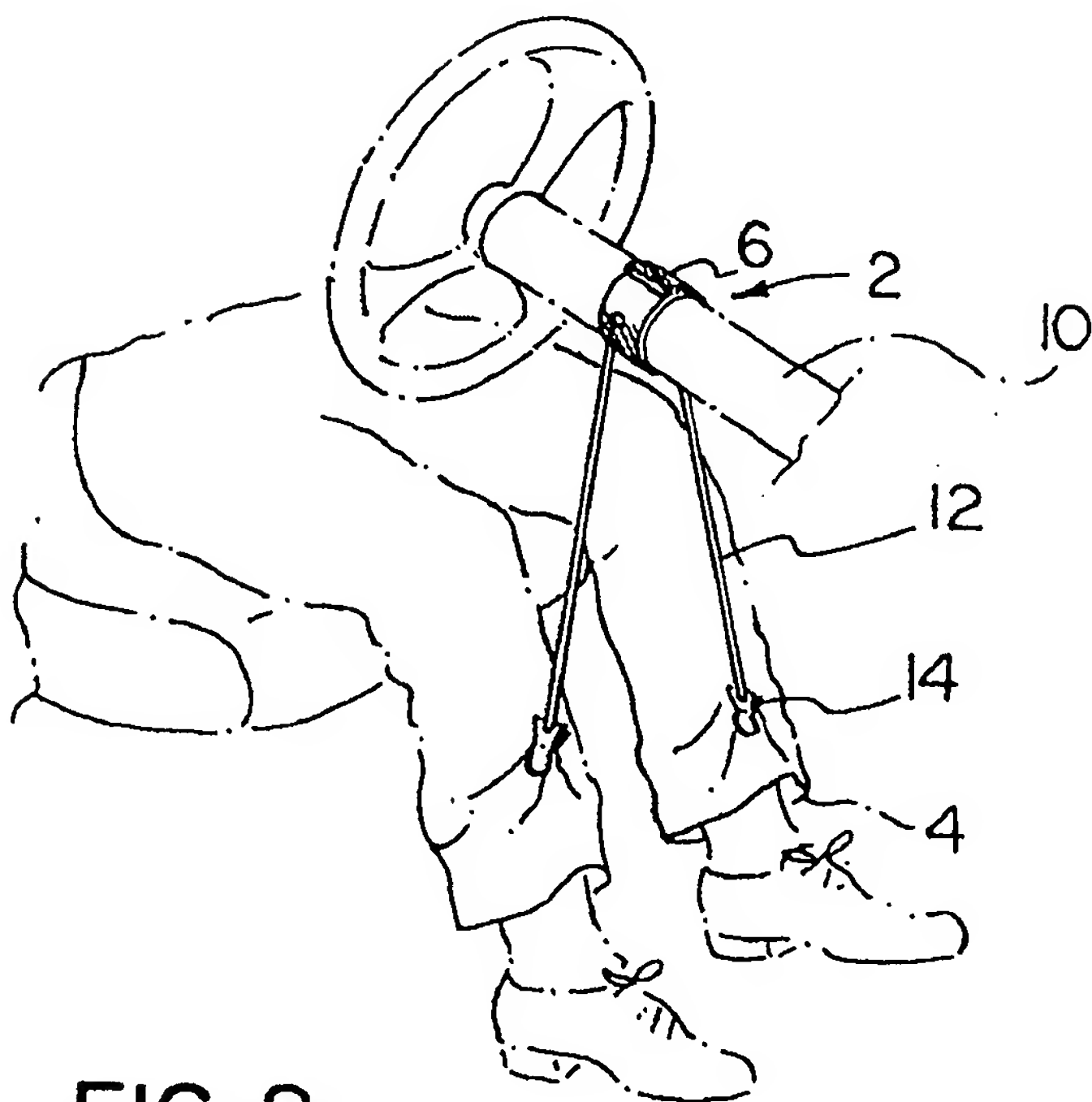
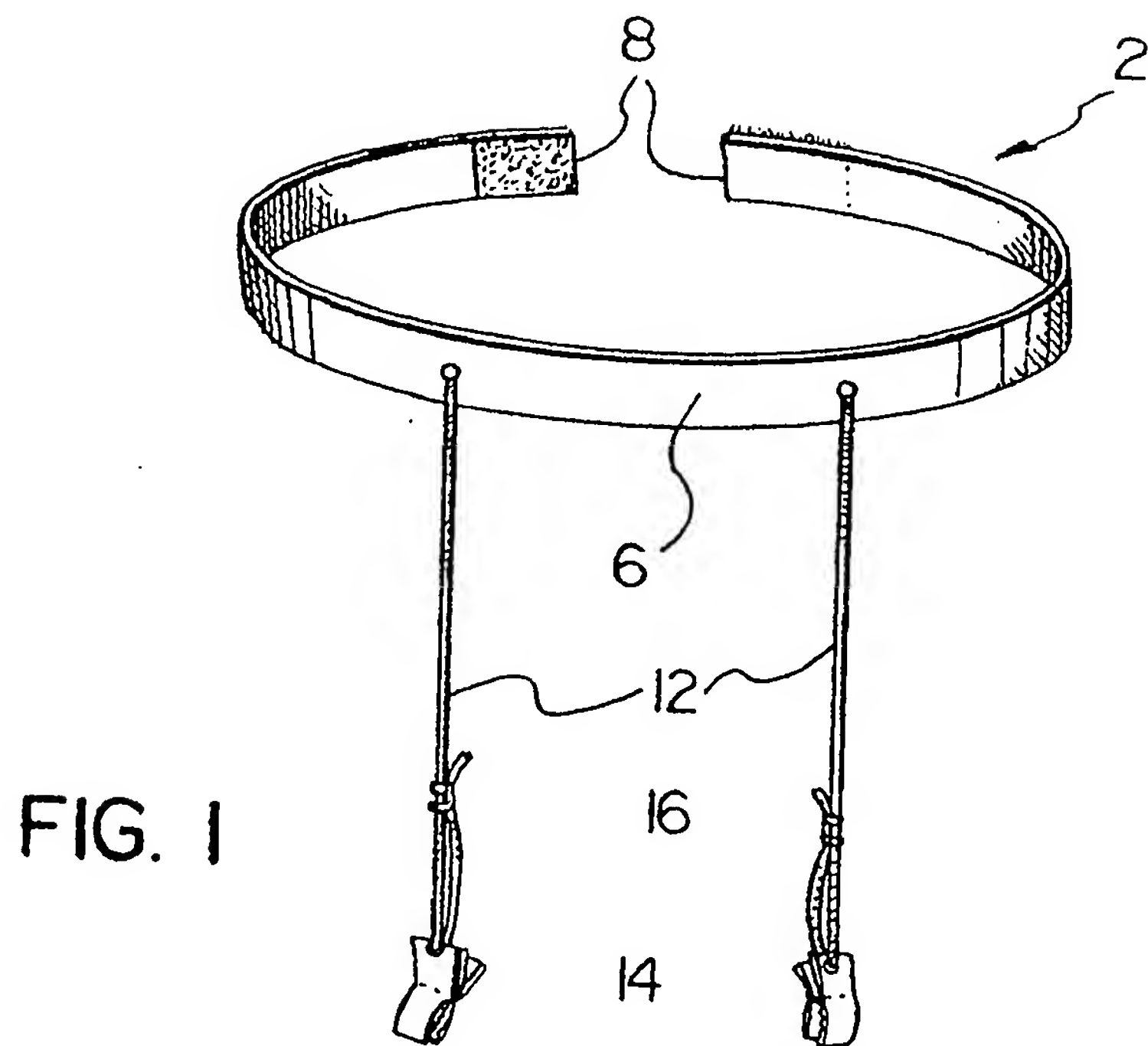
5. A device according to claim 1 wherein the clips have gripping surfaces which will not harm the material of the trousers, these surfaces being sprung biased towards fastening position in a manner which will permit the trouser legs to be automatically and non-destructively released from fastened engagement with the clips by the driver's purposeful movement of his legs, away from the device when it is attached to the steering column of a car.

6. A device according to claim 1 wherein the device is further provided with strap adjustment means for adjusting the length of the straps between the collar and clips.

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